

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Intelligence Community Staff

BYE-111221-76
Copy 1 of 5

12 March 1976

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Dr. Charles Cook
Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force
for Space Systems
Office of the Under Secretary of the
Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

Dear Charlie:

Reference is the draft "Charter - National Reconnaissance Program" which Dr. Plummer provided to Mr. Ellsworth and he forwarded to other members of the Committee on Foreign Intelligence on 3 March.

As Hank Knoche has already told you, at its 11 March meeting the CFI decided the draft charter should be reviewed by a CFI task group, which I will head, with a view to having it issued as a CFI Directive.

As I mentioned to you on the telephone this morning, I have pulled together a preliminary line-in/line-out redraft for consideration by the task group.

This paper has not been formally staffed and approved, but I thought you and whoever else will represent NRO on the task group would find it helpful to be aware of these considerations preliminary to the first meeting.

The suggested amendments are intended to give explicit recognition to the manner in which the NRP is now conducted, to adapt to the fact that the CFI has not yet decided how it is to handle budget and program matters, and to give more clear indication as to the role of the DCI and the participation of in the program. Several of the proposed changes are primarily in the interest of enhanced clarity.

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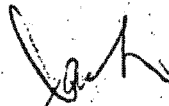
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I have asked Roland Inlow to sit in as Chairman of COMIREX and the CIA indicated this morning Sayre Stevens will be the Agency representative.

I propose the first meeting of the task group be at 1000 hours on Tuesday, 16 March, in room [redacted] CIA Headquarters. My telephone is [redacted]

(b)(3)

Sincerely,



Jack E. Thomas
Major General, USAF (Ret.)
Chief, Coordination Staff, ICS

Enclosure:
Draft Charter

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12 March 1976

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

DIRECTIVE NO.

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM CHARTER

A. INTRODUCTION

1. There is hereby created a National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) for the collection of foreign intelligence by satellites or such other overhead means as may be assigned. The NRP shall combine activities of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency to assure that potentialities of U.S. technology and all operational resources and facilities are aggressively and imaginatively exploited to develop and operate systems for the collection of foreign intelligence which are fully responsive to the Government's foreign intelligence needs and objectives. As a function of national importance, the NRP is assigned the highest priority for DoD and industrial support.

2. The Program will be managed by a National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), a special office within the Department of Defense for the collection of specialized intelligence information through reconnaissance programs. This charter sets forth the responsibilities of the NRO, which will be conducted in accordance with the legal requirements of Executive Order 11905, "United States Foreign Intelligence Activities," 18 February 1976, and its implementing directives.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The Committee on Foreign Intelligence (CFI), ^{*the Sec Def*} and the Director of Central Intelligence shall exercise such authority over the NRP as is specified provided by Executive Order 11905 and by National Security Council Directives.

* This charter supersedes the "Agreement for Reorganization of the National Reconnaissance Program," signed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, dated 11 August 1965.

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direct, fund and operate. He shall

4. The Secretary of Defense shall appoint a senior Department of Defense statutory official to be the Director of the NRO (DNRO), with the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence. The Deputy DNRO shall be appointed selected by the Director of Central Intelligence with the concurrence of the DNRO DCI. The Secretary of Defense shall provide or arrange with the CFI and the Director of Central Intelligence for provision of the necessary support to execute the program.

5. The DNRO shall establish a joint staff including representation from ~~all~~ organizations involved in the NRP, to support himself and the CFI the Program. Provision shall be made for establishment and operation of Program offices for the implementation of the NRP in appropriate agencies of the Department of Defense, the military services and the Central Intelligence Agency. The DNRO shall have the authority to assign ~~program management~~ responsibilities to the various departments and agencies of the Government, according to their capabilities, ~~and as approved by the CFI.~~ *and* *responsible to and reporting to the DNRO* *prog offices* *NRO*

6. The DNRO shall direct and manage the NRP. Planning and programming for satellite systems, or other designated overhead collectors, as approved by the CFI for the collection of national intelligence information are the sole responsibility of the DNRO. He shall be ~~is~~ responsible for directing of the activities conducted by the program offices in research, development, procurement, operation and control of satellite or other designated overhead collectors of foreign intelligence information ~~and has the authority to assign responsibilities to the various departments and agencies of the Government according to their capabilities.~~ The NRO will not produce finished intelligence.

7. ~~The responsibility of~~ The DNRO, ^{shall} ~~is to~~ satisfy, through conduct of the NRP, ~~the~~ foreign intelligence collection requirements, and priorities established by the CFI Director of Central Intelligence. The DNRO shall submit each request to conduct a foreign intelligence collection mission to the Intelligence Operations Board Operations Advisory Group for approval.

8. The DNRO shall provide ~~the Intelligence Community Staff with such information and data as it requires in providing~~ staff support to the CFI. ~~The Intelligence Community Staff (ICS) will be furnished. This will include system level performance and cost data required by the ICS to perform value assessments as directed by the CFI.~~ *for the NRP.*

4. New para. 4.

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9. ~~No other department or agency~~ Only those program offices participating in the NRP shall engage in reconnaissance intelligence collection using satellites or conduct studies or advanced technologies technology development related thereto.

10. The DNRO shall establish direct lines of control and communication to all elements of the NRO and supporting organizations for development, operations and logistics activities. The NRO shall not be subject to DoD or CIA procurement or administrative instructions or directives except as their application may be beneficial to the management of the NRP, as determined by the NRO.

11. The DNRO shall establish a fiscal control and accounting procedure to ensure that all funds expended in support of the NRP are fully accounted for and appropriately utilized by the program offices concerned.

12. The DoD Inspector General and General Counsel will be responsible for oversight of the NRO, in compliance with Sections 5 and 6 of the Executive Order 11905.

13. Contract audit functions will be performed by the Defense Contract Audit Agency, in accordance with covert security procedures.

14. The DNRO shall prepare the budget and program recommendations for the NRP and submit ~~it to~~ under procedures established by the CFI for approval and inclusion in the overall intelligence budget. The DNRO shall defend the NRP through briefings to the Congress or elsewhere ~~in support of~~ under procedures approved by the CFI.

15. The DNRO shall have reprogramming authority within the approved NRP, subject to rules governing and reprogramming of funds adopted by the CFI.

16. The DNRO is designated as the Head of a Procuring Agency, and may redelegate to the extent of his legal authority. He shall also have the authority to approve the lease or procurement of automated data processing equipment integral to NRP systems.

17. The DNRO shall establish the manning requirements for the NRO and request manpower support from the appropriate agencies and departments.

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18. The NRP shall be considered a covert activity of the U.S. Government and will not, as a matter of policy, be publicly acknowledged without the approval of the DCI. The DNRO is responsible for recommending to the DCI the security measures necessary for the protection of the NRP and for implementation of security procedures.

Director of Central
Intelligence

Deputy Secretary
of Defense

Deputy Assistant for
National Security Affairs

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